



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
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CHICAGO, IL 60604

NEWS RELEASE

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Mexican Nationals Sentenced for Document Fraud

Chicago, IL - Brian R. Perryman, District Director for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Chicago, together with Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, announced the sentencing yesterday of two Mexican nationals for the production and sale of counterfeit identification documents as part of a \$500,000 a year counterfeit document ring.

Ruben Gomez-Sanchez, age 44, and **Daniel Hernandez-Cueto**, age 19, both illegal aliens from Mexico, were sentenced June 12 by U.S. District Court Judge James B. Zagel. Gomez-Sanchez received 21 months in prison and 3 years supervised release, and Hernandez-Cueto received 30 months in prison and 3 years supervised release.

Gomez-Sanchez and Hernandez-Cueto were two of eleven individuals arrested during the investigation by INS and Social Security of a counterfeit document ring operating on the northwest side of Chicago. In May 2001 a search warrant resulted in the seizure of two thousand seven hundred and eighteen counterfeit green cards and social security cards.

Counterfeit documents sell on the street for between \$80 to \$120 per set, which includes a false social security card and green card, and are routinely manufactured and sold to illegal aliens who purchase such documents to obtain employment.

Gomez-Sanchez and Hernandez-Cueto made and sold fraudulent green cards and social security cards to illegal aliens. The Chicago INS office initiated an investigation on these subjects and their co-conspirators in December of 2000 which resulted in the arrest of eleven individuals. Two were removed from the United States and nine pled guilty to conspiracy to manufacture and sell counterfeit green cards and social security cards.

Since 1998, INS agents in Chicago have confiscated approximately 70,000 fraudulent documents from illegal manufacturers and vendors. Gomez-Sanchez and Hernandez-Cueto will be surrendered to the INS upon completion of their sentences to be placed in INS custody for deportation proceedings.

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